

A.M.W.

Dublin July 5 - 1848

My dear Friend - Have you sympathized with  
Oscar when he tells of the delight that he and sister Bridget  
took when after a deal of previous presidential consultation  
they actually laid out their hoarded savings and made some  
little acquisitions they had for some time been letting their  
hearts in? Now you must know that after receiving this  
succinct polite nomination from the General Post office  
that it could be better for the public convenience and my  
own if I were to provide my back door with a letter box, I have  
actually opened my heart and not only set up the letter  
box but have furnished the door with a ~~plate~~ brass plate having  
a brass flap over the aperture with "Letter" on it. This looks  
very far to be sure and I could not help for my own  
to my self to try if I had caught my fish - when to and  
behold yesterday what should I take out at a length have  
but three letters - one from Mary, one from Henry, and one  
from your noble self. Perhaps I should have mentioned you  
first - but I know you won't stand upon ceremony. I sup-  
pose you have heard I am very fond of letters - and it is  
quite true that a letter from you is a great treat to  
me for it is the next best thing to an immense invitation  
to the actual society of the writer. Now you abolitionists  
of Boston know you are only mortals with mental failings  
and mental wants - but I who know nothing about you  
but what I hear and read - and what letters I have seen  
like your letters than almost any people any where. So  
that when I get the three letters I felt like a child who  
gets a cake and hardly dares to look at it lest he should  
be tempted to eat it too soon. But when one goes about  
reading a letter how soon the pleasure is over. I have to come  
to the last page - and I like to look for little bits of news  
and crossings - words lost and - words from the rich man's table



About this Anne Delaney, or whatever her name is - for I don't know  
her husband's name - some of our family ever saw him or  
knew any thing of him except that he had been a policeman  
- I happened to call on to my brother, stood (or there as we say  
here - or wareroom as he would say - for he has a very large  
one) about 3 weeks ago and he told me Anne said had just  
called to tell him how kind Francis Jackson had been to  
Anne & her husband - how he boarded them at his own table for  
a week and finally procured them this excellent situation in  
which she is as happy as the day is long. I am sure I  
enjoyed her the week at Francis Jackson's. This little incident  
shows me so strikingly the difference between your custom  
and ours. Anne might have been a hundred years in  
Dublin without ever sitting down at any of our tables. The  
distinctions of rank are kept up in a general way very strictly  
and there is very little social intercourse between the different  
classes. Just intellectual encounters with a few friends  
are upwards occasionally - and men of very different  
grades are occasionally brought together by identity of  
pursuit in matters of business, pleasure, religion, benevolence,  
and science - but women very little. This state of things  
has both its advantages & disadvantages - but it is entirely  
different from that which prevails with you. My wife  
and myself so far differ from the strictness of the rule  
that we have always cultivated the intercourse of intimacy  
of people whom we liked - and so much that their position  
in life and we have had as our friends many eminent  
and many humble people who were active in the promo-  
tion of philanthropic objects. We have had as our friends  
Nicholl and Judge Marshall and John Rockings  
the Birmingham Blacksmiths. As we make no  
pretensions as greatly as the liberty of  
association, by which we have earned a name for him-  
selves, the the balance of the benefit is certainly on our side.



of all the pleasures of life. That of the society of those you honor  
and love is I think one of the most enviable - and perhaps  
because I have sought for it with so much zeal, I have  
had a fair share of it - though not nearly so much as  
I would wish. When I have been walking arm in arm  
with Garrison you can't think how much richer I felt  
myself than the good people who passed us in their  
carriages.

Anne (whom I have left so long)  
left my brother very suddenly and arrived in very short  
notice. The poor Duke do the strangest things in this  
way. Nothing is more common with them than to marry  
in haste and repent at leisure. She conducted herself very  
respectably with my brother - she is not I believe very strong  
but my sister Anne is one of the <sup>most</sup> tender hearted creatures  
in existence and extremely thoughtful to her servants.

When I saw the list of passengers by the Empress in one  
of our daily papers I looked out for your sister because  
I knew it was to be true. The name of any one on one where  
you feel interested is so much more to you than that of  
hundreds for whom you don't care. That was a terrible  
accident that happened when their voyage was nearly  
and in the crossing down of that outward bound ship.  
How strange that on all the broad Atlantic they had  
not happened to diverge but a few yards from each other  
all would have been well for the poor emigrants.

I am afraid I shall hardly see your sister in Paris -  
The times are very bad with us now - and it would  
hardly be prudent for us to go - for I would not so without  
my wife whom I would greatly like to introduce to your  
family. Partly for the cause, partly that the Chaperon  
and company are wholly to be out of Paris, and partly that



I am utterly sick of the whole course of the French both  
at home and abroad - I think in that hardly so.  
Almost the only thing of a public nature that keeps my  
heart up and my soul as a flow is the conduct &  
course of the abolitionists. There is something grand  
to see such a handful of you facing an insistent &  
swiftery nation with a bold front and with you  
feel up the rock of principle. The last Anti Slavery  
paper that came an intensely interesting & I am  
quite proud to stand to occupy even to humble  
position in the service of such an array of Nations  
nobility. I have to thank George Thompson & Harriet  
Martineau & Martyn for making a far more of  
me - and I have never ceased to rejoice that ~~such~~  
~~with~~ this has happened to me.

I have asked Gay to lend you a sum of money that  
he has in hand to be transmitted to me. Perhaps  
Mrs Follen would take charge of it - and I have to  
ask you to lend me by her a copy of Lay on the  
Mexican was published by Mapley for which you  
will pay yourself out of the money. I would  
have I any chance of seeing her. If she would  
think Dublin worth a visit - or indeed it is in  
many respects - my wife and my self would  
feel honoured & gratified by her making her  
home her home & her own home too. I would gladly  
go to Liverpool to see her if I could do so without  
being obnoxious to her - but I would not like to be  
intrusive or troublesome.



July 5, 49

My wife with our two girls are just now from home on a visit about 30 miles from Dublin but they will be back in a week or so. Our two boys with a troop of playfellows are shouting and playing in the yard behind the house. Beside her is an arm chair, sits her sister in law Maria Waring, reading David Copperfield. She is a silent, reserved young lady, no thaw, etc. steady principle and goodness. She is by far the most beautiful daughter of the Fair in proportion to her measure of energy that I am acquainted with. She is a staunch friend of M. C. Wright, who, I believe, is almost her only correspondent. She is one that I believe would go to the stake in any cause in which their conscience was involved.

I entirely agree with you about the Philadelphia effort - I have always thought that more harm than good would be done by attempting to do more than I could do the help in could give to the Boston Bazaar. When applied to on behalf of the Philadelphia and others I have told them what is the simple truth that if we feel deeply interested in the cause were to direct our efforts to the support of one Bazaar we could diminish our strength & frustrate our supporters. This however I think might be done. If the Philadelphia people saw as you do - if they could be made aware of the superior importance of your efforts I would make an



of their influence to help you, I would suggest that they should take all the English are willing to lend them - which they would lend to you - and then let them divide the proceeds so as to help the cause both in Philadelphia & New England. If it be really the case that no Liberty Party or other class of abolitionists who do not sympathize with you, is now in existence in the Union States, then ask a many of English Sturge's friends at a low house to deposit of their bounty - for I don't suppose they would like to - and then join with the former party, whose staunch adherence to principle in spite of all the thousands of Church & State, they have never shown themselves able to understand. The man is the party - for those Sturge & Furness have long friends, and are very beautiful. The fact is there are very few respectable English people prepared to sanction the lengths to which the abolitionists have been compelled to go by their determination to follow further, leading wherever she might lead the way. You have made yourselves of us present reputation. Reputation is the darling of the Quakers - and the Quakers are the backbone of all philanthropic efforts in England. They are liberal with their money, ~~unwilling~~ <sup>unwilling</sup> of effort unparagon of labors, zealous in good works - but extremely cautious & careful of their good name.

It would be difficult to give you an idea of how very little I am able to do for you - All that has in the Dublin box is contributed by very few persons



and the number of our helpers is not ~~lessened~~<sup>increased</sup> but  
diminished from year to year. Human nature is the  
same every where - and after all that has been said  
of British abolitionism I don't imagine when pushed  
to extremities as you have been, there are many more  
than with you who would imitate your heroism.  
The times are so depressed that I don't hope we will  
be able to do much ~~work~~ this year. I always feel  
athawed when I see a noble direction going, for  
there is no clan of benevolent effort to wear my  
heart. Caroline and Miss Chapman much  
have had a fine time. I would mighty like to  
have been with them. I delight in such excursions  
and in such company! Last year my wife  
& I took a delightful tour in the Western Highlands  
and as M.C. Wright could say, we had a fine  
time - We walked about 120 miles and sailed  
a good many hours amidst the most  
romantic scenery in Scotland - that which is  
celebrated in the hard of the Isles. There is much  
more sublime scenery in Cumberland but hardly  
any more picturesque or more beautiful - Now  
I have written you a shamefully long letter - you  
will have a hard job to make it out. With these  
few "conclude and come to an end" by telling you  
that any time you have time to send me will always  
be graciously pushed & that with my best respects to  
all the Wintons I am ever ever truly Richd Webb



This son by the hands of a very distinguished botanist  
Dr William Henry Harvey, who is about to lecture in  
Kent and elsewhere. He is an old acquaintance  
of mine & a man of real genius & in the highest esti-  
mation as a Marine Botanist. He is Keeper of the  
College Herbarium & Botany Professor to the Royal  
Dublin Society. He was born a Quaker & is an Ep-  
iscopalian. He is a very modest and a very delightful  
person in his way - but far too sublimely scientific  
to care for anti-slavery or its friends.

I saw here - I cannot tell where - I met with a little book  
of extracts, full of rules & regulations for good behaviour -  
among other things I recollect there were directions ~~about~~  
about the best way of making a present - and as to whether it  
was proper to dare to make one at all. Now I don't know  
whether it is right I should ask you to accept of this  
little book of Dr Harvey. "The Sea Side Book" which  
I think you can hardly fail to like even though you  
may not be a naturalist any more than myself.  
The author intd, I hope, consent to be the bearer to  
some plan from whence it will reach you - and if  
you should happen to hear him lecture you will  
perhaps feel the more interested in him. He is shy &  
diffident - but his mind is of no common order -  
I saw occasional poems of his are full of feeling &  
beauty - but he has never published any thing of  
this kind. When a boy, his father was full of  
sweetness and intellectual beauty & he was the  
darling of a large circle - my mother's father was  
his schoolfellow and one of his school day cronies.